

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /090 W

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P R 161815Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2018

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CURACAO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR NL NS

SUBJ: LOCAL TURBULENCE WORSENS AMID REALM TALKS

REF : PARAMARIBO 0216

1. TALKS BETWEEN LEADERS OF GOVERNING COALITION (NPK) AND INDIAN-LED OPPOSITION (VHP) WERE ABORTED YESTERDAY EVENING AS POLICE SCATTERED CROWDS OF ROCK-THROWING CREOLE AND INDIAN YOUTHS, AVERTING MORE SERIOUS RACIAL CLASHES. MEANWHILE, DUTCH PRIMMIN DEN UYL ARRIVED EARLY THIS MORNING WITHOUT INCIDENT AND GON AND GOS SETTLED DOWN TO NEGOTIATE MAJOR INDEPENDENCE ISSUES.

2. UNDER AUSPICES MAJOR LABOR FEDERATIONS, NPK AND VHP LEADERS MET EARLY YESTERDAY EVENING IN EFFORT RESOLVE DIFFERENCES ARISING FROM COALITION INDIFFERENCE TO VHP DEMANDS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND PARTICIPATION IN INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, VHP CHAIRMAN LACHMON ANNOUNCED HE FORCED TO LEAVE TO CALM CROWD OF PERHAPS 5,000 OF HIS FOLLOWERS, ONLOOKERS (SOME INDONESIANS) AND ACTIVISTS, WHO HAD GATHERED AT BRIDGE ON OUTSKIRTS HOPING TO PRESENT PETITION TO DEN UYL WHO RUMORED TO BE ARRIVING EARLY. LACHMON, WHO PROMISED RETURN

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IN HALF-HOUR, ARRIVED INSTEAD IN AN HOUR TO FIND MINPRES ARRON

AND NPK CABINET DELEGATION HAD DEPARTED WHEN TALKS UNABLE TO PROCEED WITHOUT VHP LEADER.

3. DETAILS VARY, BUT APPEARS FROM MEDIA, AND POLITICIAL AND SECURITY CONTACTS THAT CROWD AT BRIDGE GREW RESTIVE WHEN POLICE CLEARED WAY FOR OFFICIAL CAR AND ESCORT BRINGING DUTCH DEVELOPMENT MIN PRONK INTO PARAMARIBO FOR CONFERENCE. PARTY DID NOT STOP AND RUMOR SPREAD THAT CAR CONTAINED DEN UYL, ANGERING CROWD, PORTION OF WHICH STARTED FOR DUTCH DELEGATION HOTEL HEADQUARTERS WITH UNDELIVERED PETITION. MEANWHILE ROCK-THROWING STARTED BETWEEN GROUPS OF CROLES AND INDIANS AFTER POLICE CHEERED FOR EFFORTS MAINTAIN ORDER. AS GROUPS MOVED TOWARD TOWN, THEY WERE SPLIT UP BY POLICE, DELEGATION HOTEL SEALED OFF, AND TEAR-GAS USED TO DISPERSE VOLATILE GATHERING OF YOUNG INDIANS AND CROLES NEAR VHP HEADQUARTERS. SMALL BANDS CIRCULATED IN DOWNTOWN AREA BREAKING CAR AND OFFICE WINDOWS. NO SERIOUS INJURIES OR HEAVY PROPERTY DAMAGE FROM STONING REPORTED, (CID CHIEF'S CAR STRUCK TWICE) ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SMALL FIRES SET AND SCHOOL ATTENDED BY CROLES IN INDIAN AREA BURNED TO GROUND IN ENVIRONS. BY TIME DUTCH PRIMMIN ARRIVED ALL WAS QUIET.

4. WITH TENSIONS SHARPLY UP AFTER RACIAL CLASHES AND DISORDERS OF LAST NIGHT, UNION LEADERS AND MODERATES ON BOTH SIDES ARE WORKING TO RECONVENE TALKS BEFORE SCHEDULED MAY 19 MASS INDIAN AND INDONESIAN MARCHES AND PLANNED CLOSE-DOWN OF MARKET AND INDIAN BUSINESSES. BOTH HEAD OF BIGGEST LABOR FEDERATION (DAAL) AND MODERATE CO-VICECHAIRMAN OF VHP (HINDOORIE) HAVE TOLD ME THAT MEETING OF TWO SIDES EXPECTED RESUME LATE TOMORROW BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF THIS AT CABINET LEVEL AS THIS SENT. TO EASE PATH TO SECOND MEETING, HINDOORIE ENDEAVORING SUPPRESS PUBLIC REJOINDER LACHMON PREPARING TO NPK ALLEGATIONS HE RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAKING OFF YESTERDAY'S TALKS.

5. ALMOST FORGOTTEN BY LOCAL POPULATION NERVOUS OVER PARTISAN DISORDERS, TRI-PARTITE CONFERENCE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY WITH MAJOR QUESTIONS (REFTEL) STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED. CONFEREES PLAN WORK THROUGH WEEKEND WITH DEPARTURE OF GON DELEGATION NOW SET FOR MIDDLE NEXT WEEK.

6. COMMENT: LAST NIGHT'S STONING, INJURIES, AND PROPERTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAMAGE HOPEFULLY HAVE JOLTED POLITICAL RIVALS INTO REALIZATION THAT THEY MUST SIT DOWN AND MAKE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD AN UNDERSTANDING THAT WILL REDUCE PRESSURES FOR COMMUNAL ERUPTION. WITHOUT THIS, MONDAY'S DEMONSTRATION OF INDIAN STRENGTH, IF IT REMAINS ON VHP AGENDA, COULD TURN INTO AN EXTREMELY UGLY AFFAIR. THE POLICE BELIEVE THEY CAN HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING THESE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE LIABLE TO PRODUCE; CERTAINLY THEIR PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN SENSITIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SO FAR E.G. USE OF

MAINLY INDIAN MEMBERS OF FORCE TO CONTROL CROWDS AT BRIDGE AND
PATROLING MARKET TO PREVENT SCARE RISES IN PRICE OF STAPLES.
FLANEWIN

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